

## REPORTING CHILD ABUSE, ABANDONMENT OR NEGLECT

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- 1. Reporting Child Abuse, Abandonment or Neglect:** All employees and agents have an affirmative duty to report all actual or suspected cases of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect. Call 1-800-96-ABUSE or report online at: <https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/abuse>.
- 2. Training Requirement:** All school employees including instructional personnel, educational support professionals, and administrators are required as a condition of employment to complete training on these standards of ethical conduct.
- 3. Reporting Misconduct by Instructional Personnel, Administrators and other Employees:** All employees, educational support professionals, and administrators have an obligation to report misconduct by instructional personnel, school administrators and educational support professionals, which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student. Examples of misconduct include obscene language, drug and alcohol use, disparaging comments, prejudice or bigotry, sexual innuendo, cheating or testing violations, physical aggression, and accepting or offering favors. Reports of misconduct of employees including administrator should be made to **VERNA EDWARDS, SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR, Verna.Edwards@DLAOCALA.COM, 352-427-5118** within 24 hours.
- 4. Reporting Educator Misconduct:** Legally sufficient allegations of misconduct by Florida certified educators will be reported to the Office of Professional Practices Services. Policies and procedures for reporting misconduct by instructional personnel or school administrators which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student are posted on the School Google Drive, in the administrator's office and on our website at [DLAOCALA.com](http://DLAOCALA.com) (click on the 'Report Educator Misconduct' button at the bottom footer).
- 5. Signs of Physical Abuse:** The child may have unexplained bruises, welts, cuts, or other injuries; broken bones; or burns. A child experiencing physical abuse may seem withdrawn or depressed, seem afraid to go home or may run away, shy away from physical contact, be aggressive, or wear inappropriate clothing to hide injuries.
- 6. Signs of Sexual Abuse:** The child may have torn, stained, or bloody underwear, trouble walking or sitting, pain or itching in genital area, or a sexually transmitted disease. A child experiencing sexual abuse may have unusual knowledge of sex or act seductively, fear a particular person, seem withdrawn or depressed, gain or lose weight suddenly, shy away from physical contact, or run away from home.
- 7. Signs of Neglect:** The child may have unattended medical needs, little or no supervision at home, poor hygiene, or appear underweight. A child experiencing neglect may be frequently tired or hungry, steal food, or appear overly needy for adult attention.
- 8. Patterns of Abuse:** Serious abuse usually involves a combination of factors. While a single sign may not be significant, a pattern of physical or behavioral signs is a serious indicator and should be reported.